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Pesticide Safety: A Photonovel

M. Susan Jones

Western Kentucky University, susan.jones@wku.edu

The Kentucky Partnership for Farm Family Health & Safety

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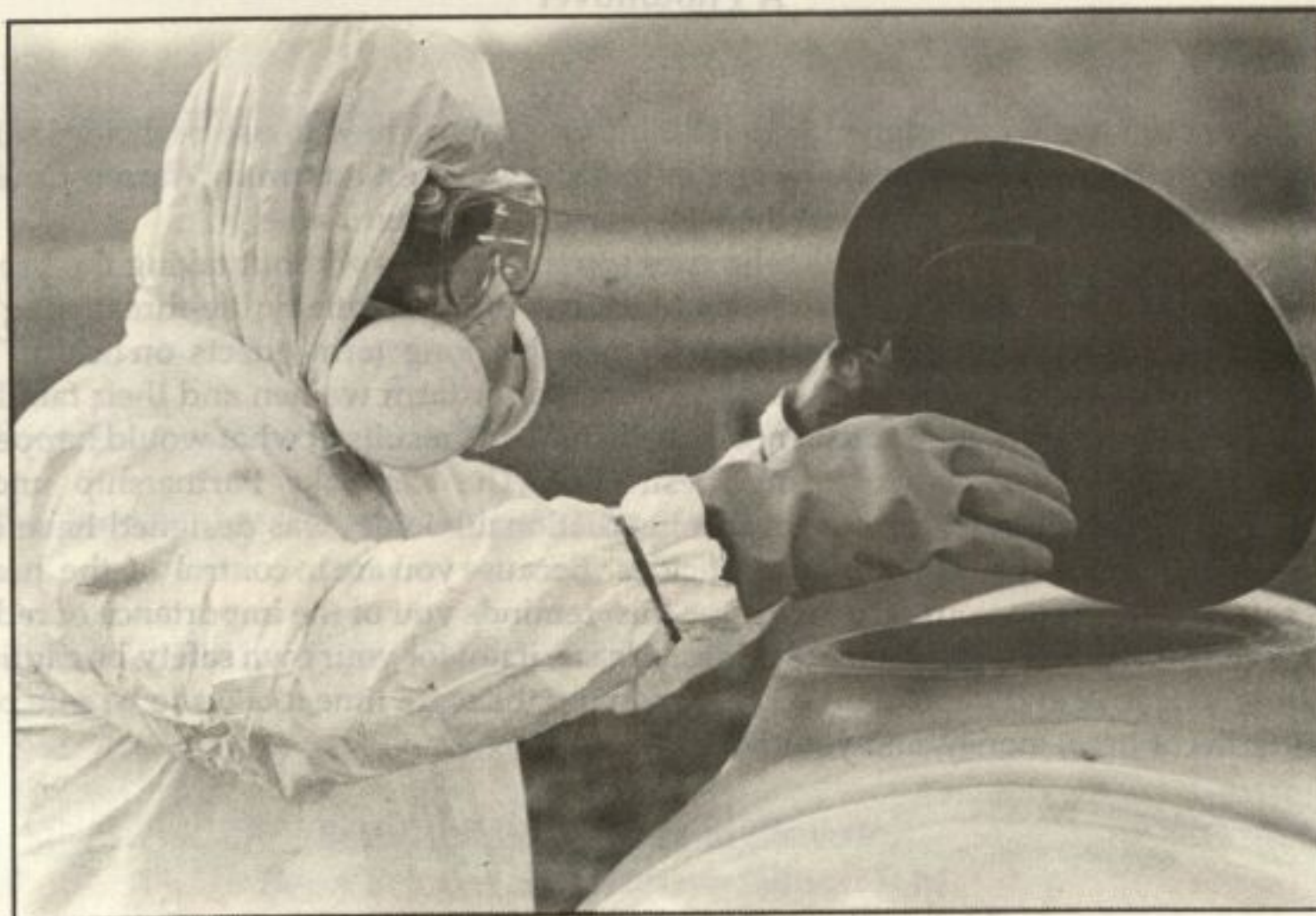
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Pesticide Safety: A Photonovel



Pesticide Safety: A Photonovel

This photonovel was designed to deliver information on how to use pesticides safely on the family farm. The main characters in this story live on a farm in Warren County, Kentucky. They are Mark, Faye and their 14-year-old daughter Kallie.

The story revolves around Mark who uses some pesticides without taking the proper precautions and how his wife Faye helps Mark out of a potentially life-threatening dilemma. Pesticide poisoning is a problem with possible long term effects on health. The proper use of pesticides was identified as a concern for farm women and their families. The authors have taken great care in not embellishing the results of what would happen if proper care is not taken when using pesticides. The Kentucky Partnership understands that the individuals for whom this instructional booklet was designed have had years of experience working with pesticides. Because you are in control of the health and safety aspects on your farm, we hope this reminds you of the importance of reducing the risks involved with using pesticides. Please, if not for your own safety, be cautious for those who love and depend on you! Remember the extra time it takes to be safe pays off in terms of time, money, and your health.

Instructions for Using the Photonovel

Read through this novel and look at the accompanying pictures. Throughout the script there are bordered boxes labeled Think Boxes. At these points, your opinion is of tremendous value. If you are working with a group, share your opinion about Mark and Faye's problem! Simply, try to think of what you have done to reduce the risks of using pesticides on your farm!!

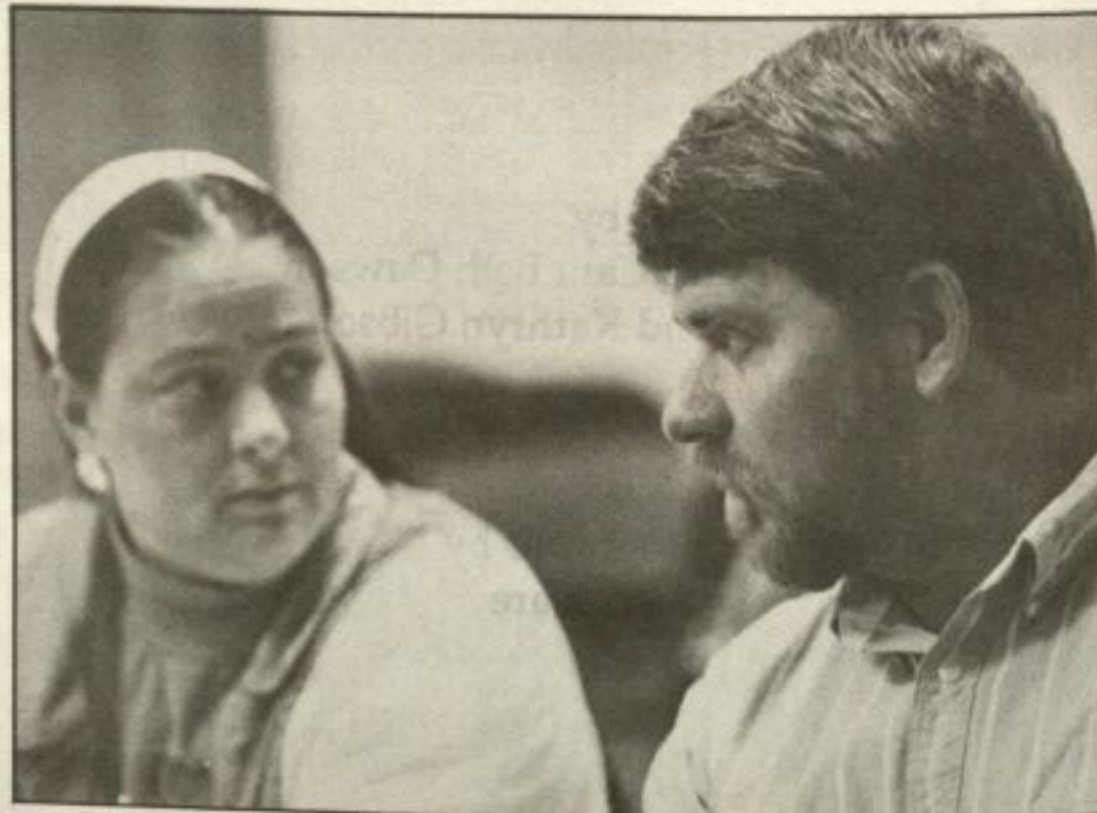
Enjoy the story and have some fun!!!!

PESTICIDE SAFETY: A PHOTONOVEL

Prepared for use as educational material for
The Kentucky Partnership for Farm Family Health and Safety

by
Beth Cundiff, Cara Beth Dawson,
Betsy Schroer and Kathryn Gibson R.N.

Photographs by
Jacob Ware



Mark and Faye have come to the Cooperative Extension Office for a meeting on pesticides. Mark is a little upset that they are required to attend a meeting like this to get their restricted use certification renewed. He feels that the government shouldn't interfere with small family farm operations like theirs. Faye is trying to make the best of the situation. She wants to learn how to keep her family safe from these chemicals.

Mark: Can you believe all these regulations we have to follow? I have work to do. I shouldn't have to be here today!

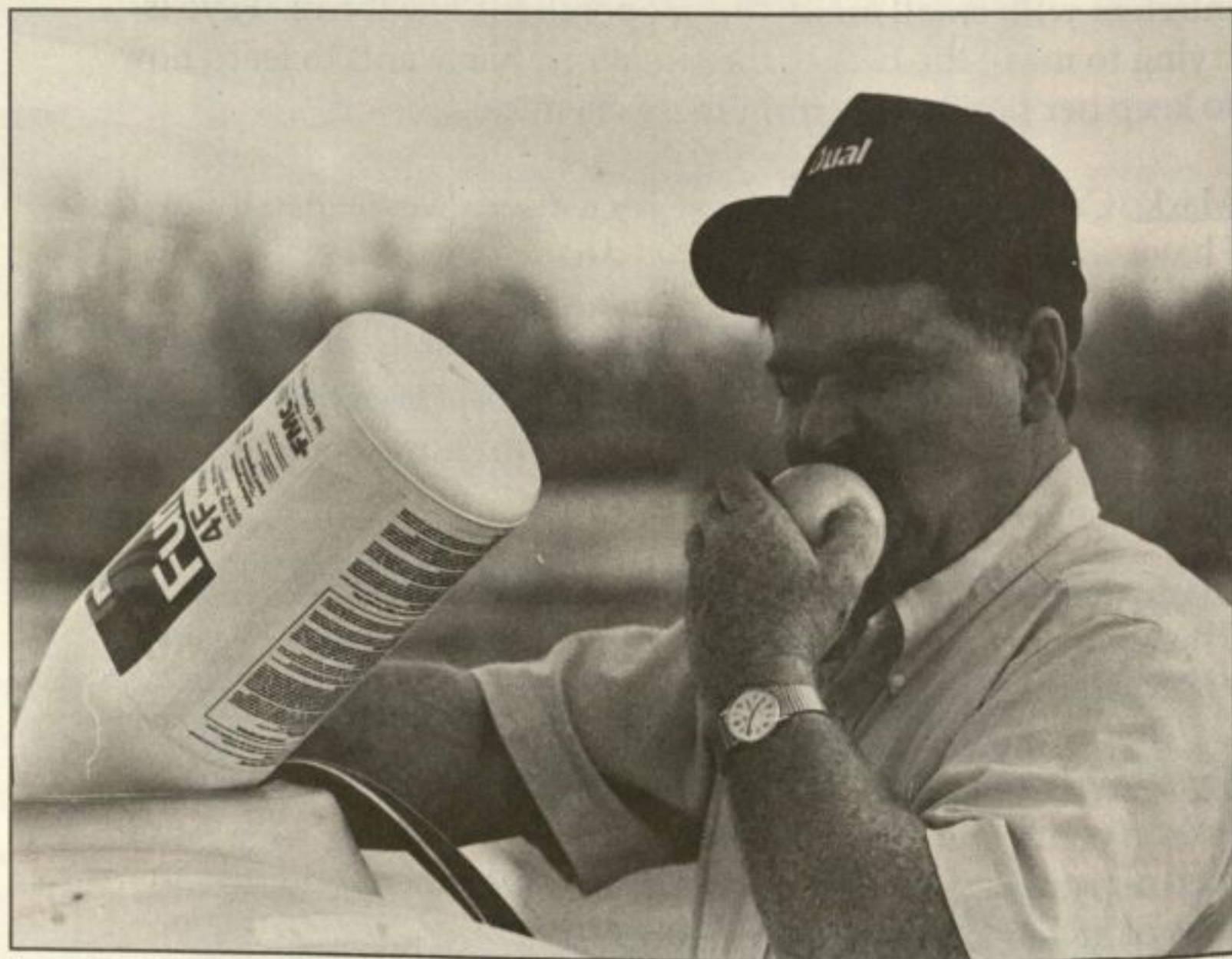
Faye: Well we have to be here to get our certification renewed so we can buy the pesticides you need. Besides, pesticides make me nervous. Maybe we should learn how to use them safely.

Mark: Faye, I have been using the same pesticides for years. The worst thing that happens is you get a little dizzy. We can't afford all these safety precautions.

Faye: Well let's try to learn something. I have to get a new poison control sticker for the phone anyway. The other one got torn off somehow...and Kallie needs to know those numbers in case of an emergency.

THINK BOX

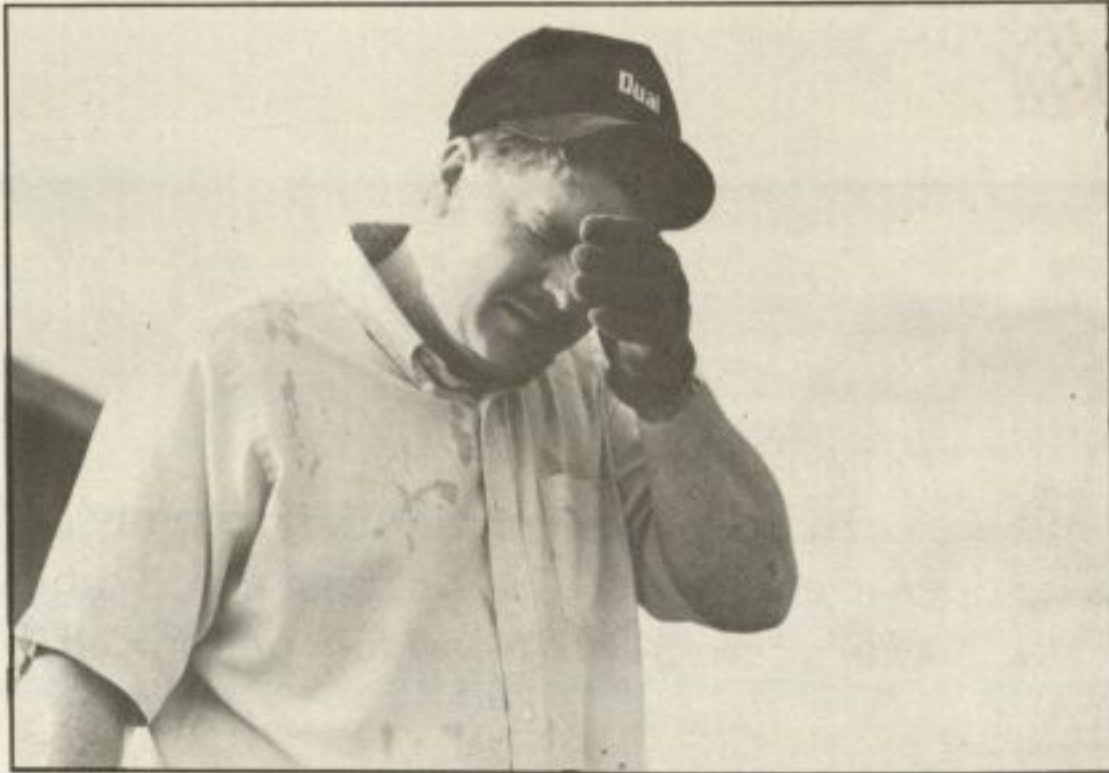
At your farm, are appropriate emergency numbers posted?
What numbers should be posted?



Mark is behind the barn mixing the carbofuran to spray on his corn crop as he does every spring. He's having a mid morning snack as he works. He's careful not to get any on himself, but he's in a hurry.

THINK BOX

Do you mix the chemicals from memory or do you read the directions? Where are pesticides mixed and stored on your farm?



Later, Faye calls Mark in for lunch. She sees Mark walking hesitantly, rubbing his eyes.

Faye: Honey, are you all right?

Mark: Gosh, I feel terrible all of a sudden!

Faye: Let's get to the house and get you out of those smelly clothes.

As they begin to walk back to the house, Mark collapses! Faye screams for Kallie.

Kallie: Mom, what's wrong?

Faye: Your dad passed out! Call the emergency number near the phone. Hurry! Answer all the operator's questions and don't hang up until they tell you to. Tell them your dad was working with pesticides.

A little later, as they wait for the ambulance:

Faye: Kallie, go to the kitchen and get a garbage bag. We need to take the label of that pesticide with us. They may need it to help your dad.

THINK BOX

Have you or any one you know had any adverse effects related to pesticides? What happened?



At the hospital emergency room, Dr. Scott is reading Mark's chart.

Mark: Dr. Scott, what happened? All I know is I was talking to Faye and then the next thing I remember is waking up in the ambulance.

Dr. Scott: More than likely you have pesticide poisoning. The pesticide Faye brought in is sure strong stuff! We are going to run some more tests to rule out any other possibilities though. Faye, you did real well in getting Mark immediate attention and for bringing in the pesticide. How is Kallie handling this?

Faye: Kallie was a lot of help. She will be fine. What about Mark?

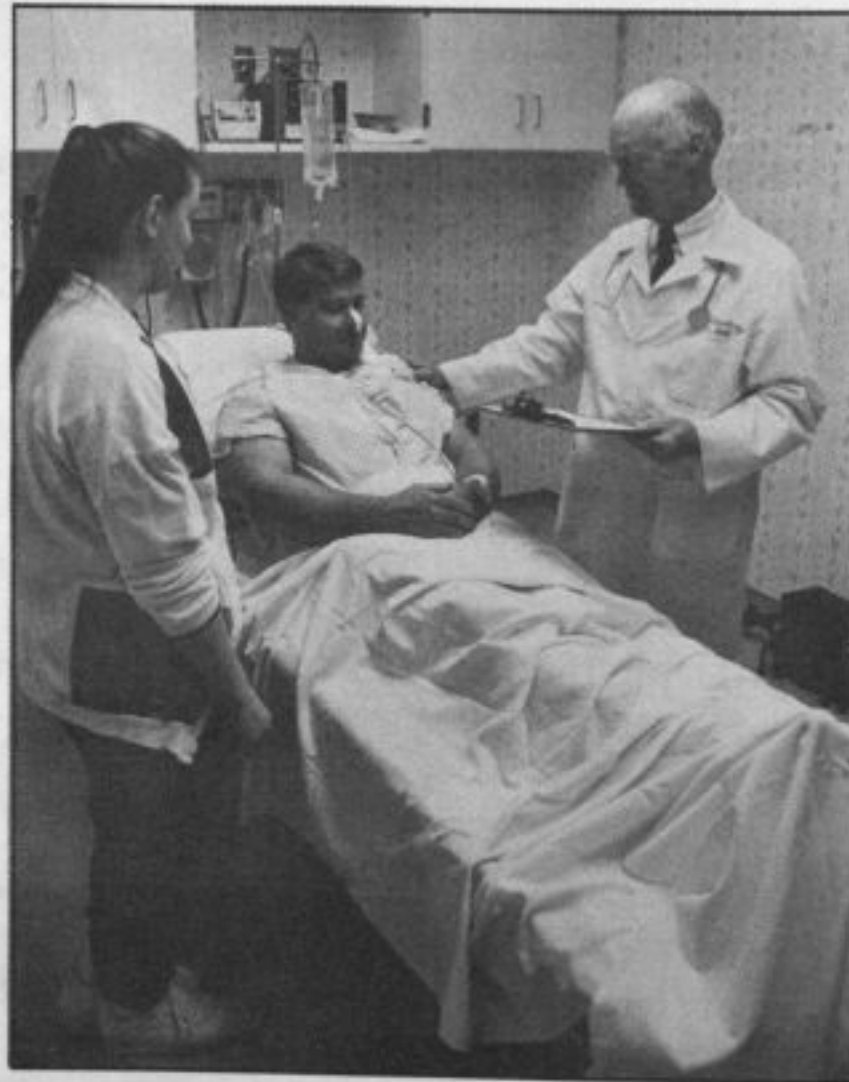
Dr. Scott: Let's get the results of these tests and we'll see.

Two hours later, Mark is feeling better. Dr. Scott comes back.

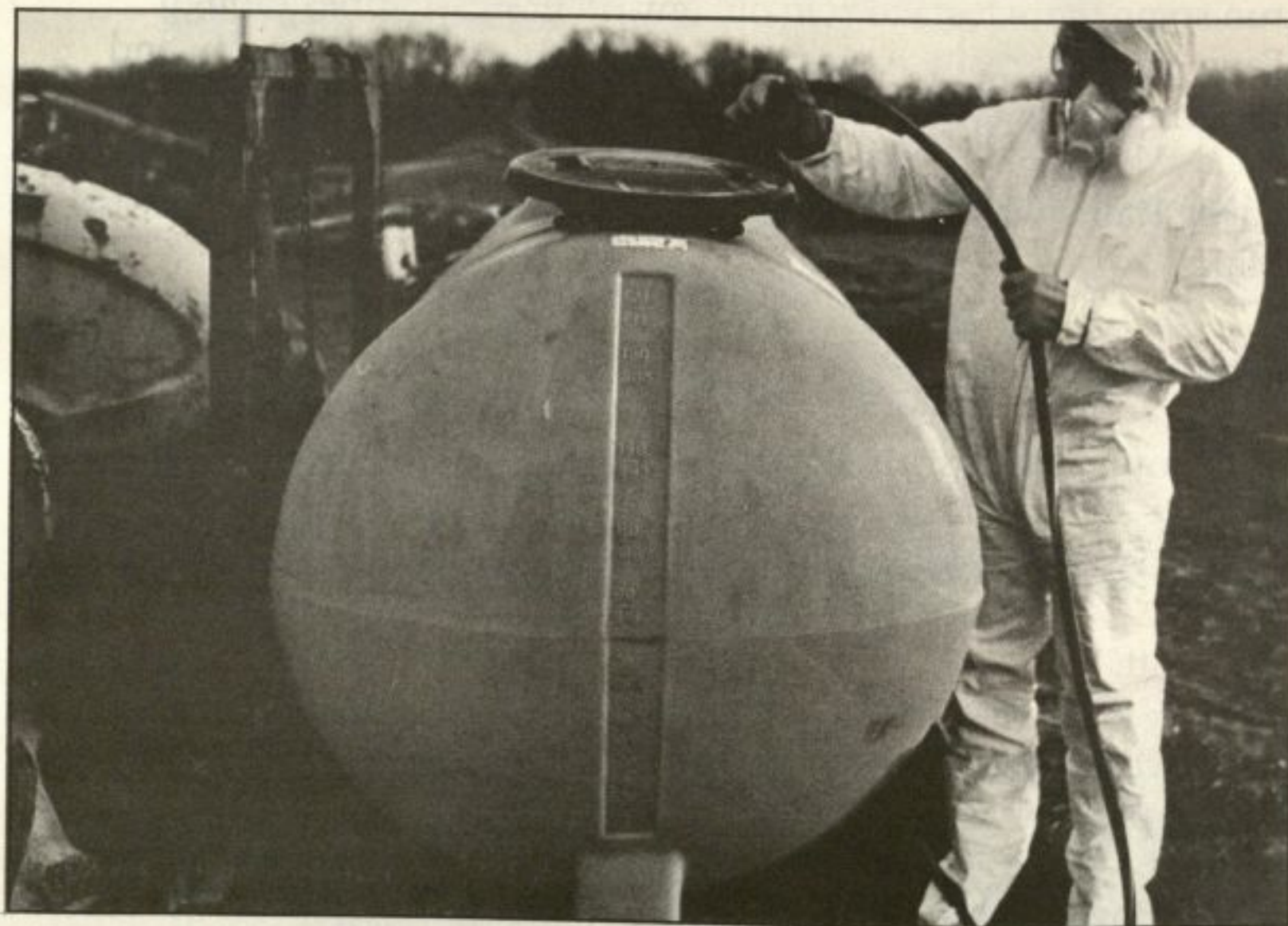
Mark: Well Dr. Scott, was it pesticide poisoning?

Dr. Scott: Yes it was, Mark. You need to be more careful in the future. Pesticides can be very dangerous. We need to keep you here overnight to make sure you don't have any long term health problems as a result of this exposure.

Faye: Boy, that is a relief. I just hope you've learned your lesson! It's going to cost us more in medical bills and time away from the farm now than if you had used the precautions they recommend.



Back at the farm, Mark is again mixing carbofuran to finish his spraying. This time he is using the recommended protective apparel: rubber gloves, eye protection, a respirator, shoe covers and a disposable suit over his clothes.



After using the spray, Mark is rinsing his protective clothing before removing it. Faye and Kallie are watching him.

Kallie: Dad sure learned his lesson about pesticide safety.

Faye: Yes. The hard way!



THINK BOX

Do you think that spending the extra money and taking the extra time to be safe is worth it?

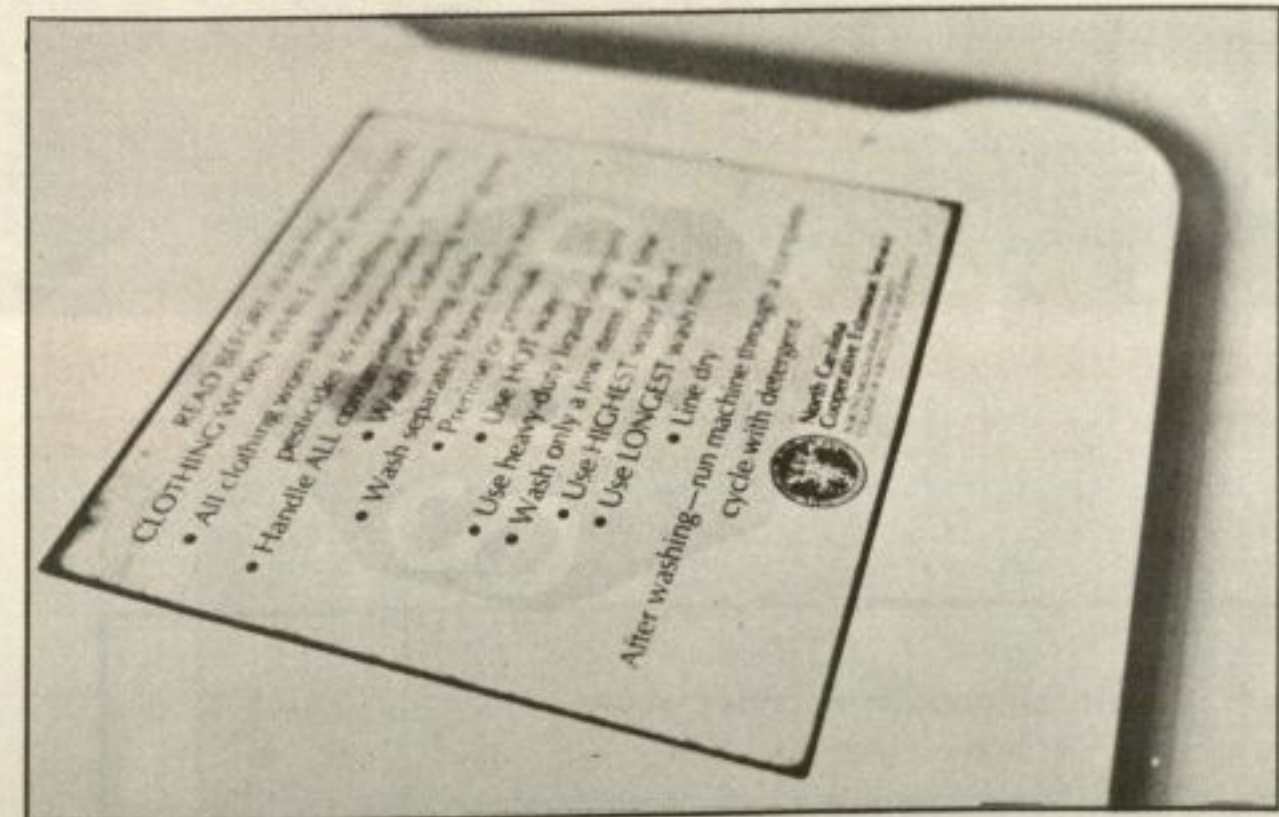


Faye and Kallie are getting ready to do a load of laundry when Mark brings her his contaminated clothes.

Faye: Your dad wanted to just throw these clothes away. We don't have money for that foolishness. Anyway, I've learned how to wash them safely. We wash them separately, do a pre-soak or prerinse, use the highest water level, and do a second rinse. We will hang these on the line to air dry...we don't ever want to put them in the dryer.

Kallie: But doesn't that still leave the stuff in the washing machine?

Faye: No. We just make sure that we do a second wash only with soap in the machine to clean out the washer.





THINK BOX

What can you do on your farm to reduce the risks associated with using pesticides?

Later that spring Mark is fixing Kallie's 10-speed as Faye looks on.

Kallie: Thanks Dad. I'm sure glad you are OK. I might never have gotten my bike fixed!

They all laugh, knowing they really are fortunate to be together in good health.



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**The Kentucky Partnership
for Farm Family Health and Safety**
PO Box 8266, 1 Big Red Way
Bowling Green, KY 42101-3576
Phone: 502-745-3213/745-6328